

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, above line 6, please insert header "FIELD OF INVENTION".

Page 1, above line 13, please insert header "BACKGROUND".

Page 3, above line 20, please insert header "SUMMARY".

Page 3, please delete paragraph beginning on line 29.

Page 8, above line 5, please insert "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES".

Page 8, above line 35, please insert "DETAILED DESCRIPTION".

Page 8, please replace paragraph beginning on line 35 of the following new paragraph:

-- A telephone set 1 is connected to a longitudinal current detection device 4 via a first telephone connecting line 2 and via a second telephone connecting line 3. The second telephone connecting line 3 contains a branch-off node to which a grounding key 6a belonging to the telephone connecting set 1 is connected and is connected to ground. The longitudinal current detection device 4 is preferably an SLIC semiconductor circuit having an integrated longitudinal current detection function. The output of the longitudinal current detection device 4 is connected to a comparator 6 via an output line 5. The detected longitudinal current output via the output line 5 is compared with a threshold current value by the comparator 6. The comparator 6 is connected to a monitoring circuit 8 via an output line 7. The monitoring circuit 8 detects the overshoot period, i. e. the period for which the longitudinal current exceeds the current threshold value set, and the undershoot period, i. e. the period in which the longitudinal current drops below the current threshold value set, and outputs a grounding key detection signal via the line 9 when the overshoot period is longer than the undershoot period.--

Page 13, please replace paragraph beginning on line 18 of the following new paragraph:

-- After the grounding key 6a has been closed, an interference sensitive

longitudinal current, which is detected by the longitudinal current detection device 4, arises at the telephone set connecting lines 2, 3 of the telephone connection 1. The longitudinal current detected at output connection 5 amounts to the difference between the current flowing in connecting line 2 and that flowing in connecting line 3 divided by a factor of 2. By closing the grounding key 6a, the longitudinal current I_L indicates up to time T_1 at which it exceeds an upper current threshold value I_{SO} . This overshooting is detected by means of the first comparator circuit 11 in comparator 6 and a detection signal is output to the monitoring circuit 8 via this signal line 7a.--